

**The University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies**

**RELS 451.08 L20 - Indian Literature: *The Mahabharata*
Spring 2009
TR 10:00-12:45**

Professor: Chris Framarin
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Office: SS 1212, Phone: (403) 220-5532
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 – 3:30

Description: In this course, we will study the Indian epic the *Mahabharata*. We will begin by reading a condensed version of the epic and watching the film. The rest of the course will consist of student presentations. Students will present discussion papers to the class, make available relevant resource material ahead of time (including more extensive English translations of the passages under consideration), and run the discussion. Discussion papers can focus on any literary, philosophical, sociological, psychological, political, historical, etc. topic the presenting student finds interesting. I will model this during the third week of class. (My topic will be the value of animals in the *Mahabharata*.) Final papers can (and probably should) be based on in-class presentations.

Required Readings:

Mahabharata, translated by R. K. Narayan (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978).
Course Packet (available on Blackboard and in RELS department)
Relevant Source Material (made available by presenting student one week before presentation)

Evaluation:

Class Participation	10%
In-Class Discussion Paper (5-7 pp.), Presentation and Discussion	25%
Final Paper (8-12 pp.)	65%

*There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.

A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

Academic Honesty:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity. See relevant pages in the current University Calendar. I will investigate and prosecute any suspected case of plagiarism in this course to the fullest extent.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at (403) 220-8237. Once registered, discuss arrangements for exams with the instructor as soon as possible, well before the examination dates.

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One

Thursday, May 14
Course Overview
Watch *Mahabharata* in class
HW: Read *Mahabharata* (Narayan)

Week Two

Tuesday, May 19
Watch *Mahabharata* in class
Discussion
Sign up for presentations
HW: Finish *Mahabharata* (Narayan)

Thursday, May 21
Watch *Mahabharata* in class
Discussion
Finish signing up for presentations
HW: Finish watching *Mahabharata* video (in RELS department)
Read Matilal's "Moral Dilemmas: Insights from Indian Epics" and "Krsna: In Defense of a Devious Divinity" (course packet)

Week Three

Tuesday, May 26
Discussion of Matilal Articles
HW: Chakrabarti "Meat and Morality in the *Mahabharata*"
Excerpts from van Buitenen's translation of *Mahabharata*

Thursday, May 28
Paper Presentation – Framarin

Discussion of Vegetarianism/Animal Value passages of MB
HW: To be determined (by students presenting Tuesday, June 2)

Week Four

Tuesday, June 2
In Class Presentations (material to be determined by presenting students)
HW: To be determined

Thursday, June 4
In Class Presentations (material to be determined by presenting students)
HW: To be determined

Week Five

Tuesday, June 9
In Class Presentations (material to be determined by presenting students)
HW: To be determined

Thursday, June 11
In Class Presentations (material to be determined by presenting students)
HW: To be determined

Week Six

Tuesday, June 16
In Class Presentations (material to be determined by presenting students)
HW: To be determined

Thursday, June 18
In Class Presentations (material to be determined by presenting students)
HW: To be determined

Week Seven

Tuesday, June 23
In Class Presentations (material to be determined by presenting students)
HW: Work on Final Papers

Thursday, June 25
Presentation of abstracts for final papers
HW: Finish Final Papers

Week Eight

Thursday, July 2
Final papers due in drop box in Philosophy Department, 12th floor Social Sciences, by 4 p.m.